

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

JOSEPH A. COCHRAN, JR.

C.A. No. 1:06 cv 00697

v.

J.B. HUNT TRANSPORT, INC.  
and JAMES W. REED

**DEFENDANTS' ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT**

Defendants, J. B. Hunt Transport, Inc. and James W. Reed, by and through their counsel, Rawle & Henderson, LLP, hereby submit this Answer to plaintiff's Amended Complaint and aver as follows:

1. Denied. Defendants are without sufficient information or knowledge to affirm the truth of the averments contained in paragraph 1 of the Complaint. Therefore, said averments are denied.

2. Admitted in part; denied in part. It is admitted only that defendant, James W. Reed, is a resident of the State of Mississippi. The remaining allegations contained in paragraph 2 of the Complaint are conclusions of law to which no response is required.

3. Admitted in part; denied in part. The allegations contained in paragraph 3 of the Complaint are conclusions of law to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, defendants admit only that J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc.'s principal office is located in Lowell, Arkansas and that J. Kirk Thompson is the registered agent for J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc. in Arkansas.

4. Admitted in part; denied in part. It is admitted only that on October 30, 2004, defendant, James W. Reed, and plaintiff, Joseph Cochran, were traveling northbound on Route 9

in New Castle, Delaware. The remaining allegations of paragraph 4 of the Complaint are denied, and strict proof of same is demanded at trial.

5. Admitted in part; denied in part. The allegations contained in paragraph 5 of the Complaint are conclusions of law to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, defendants admit only that James Reed was driving a tractor owned by J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc., and at all material times, Mr. Reed was acting in the furtherance of the business of J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc. All other allegations contained in paragraph 5 of the Complaint are denied.

6. Denied. The allegations contained in paragraph 6 of the Complaint are conclusions of law to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, defendants specifically deny any negligence and demand strict proof thereof at trial.

7. (a-e) Denied. The allegations contained in paragraph 7 of the Complaint, and its subparts (a)-(e), are conclusions of law to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, defendants specifically deny any negligence and demand strict proof thereof at trial.

8. (a-d) Denied. The allegations contained in paragraph 8 of the Complaint, and its subparts (a)-(d), are conclusions of law to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, defendants specifically deny any negligence or gross negligence and demand strict proof thereof at trial.

9. Denied. The allegations contained in paragraph 9 of the Complaint are conclusions of law to which no response is required. By way of further answer, defendants are without information of knowledge sufficient to affirm the truth of the averments contained in

paragraph 9 of the Complaint. Defendants specifically deny any negligence or gross negligence and demand strict proof thereof at trial.

10. Denied. The allegations contained in paragraph 10 of the Complaint are conclusions of law to which no response is required. By way of further answer, defendants are without information of knowledge sufficient to affirm the truth of the averments contained in paragraph 10 of the Complaint. Defendants specifically deny any negligence and demand strict proof thereof at trial.

16.[sic] Denied. The allegations contained in paragraph 16 [sic] of the Complaint are conclusions of law to which no response is required. By way of further answer, defendants are without information of knowledge sufficient to affirm the truth of the averments contained in paragraph 16 [sic] of the Complaint. Defendants specifically deny any negligence and demand strict proof thereof at trial.

17. [sic] Denied. The allegations contained in paragraph 17 [sic] of the Complaint are conclusions of law to which no response is required. By way of further answer, defendants are without information of knowledge sufficient to affirm the truth of the averments contained in paragraph 17 [sic] of the Complaint. Defendants specifically deny any negligence and demand strict proof thereof at trial.

WHEREFORE, defendants, J. B. Hunt Transport, Inc., and James W. Reed, demand judgment in their favor and against the plaintiff, dismissing plaintiff's Complaint with prejudice together with an award of costs and disbursements incurred by defendants, including attorneys' fees together with such other relief in favor of defendants as this Honorable Court shall deem appropriate.

**AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

**FIRST DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

**SECOND DEFENSE**

Defendants did not breach any duty owed to plaintiff.

**THIRD DEFENSE**

Defendants aver that plaintiff was guilty of contributory negligence.

**FOURTH DEFENSE**

The injuries or damages alleged by plaintiff, if any, were not actually or proximately caused by an act or omission on the part of the defendants.

**FIFTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's claims are barred or reduced in accordance with the comparative negligence act.

**SIXTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's injuries and damages, if any, were caused in whole or in part by the intervening and superseding acts of third parties over which defendants had no control.

**SEVENTH DEFENSE**

Defendants, at all relevant times, acted with due care and complied with all requirements of applicable law.

**EIGHTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiff assumed the risk of conduct for the incident out of which the Complaint has arisen.

**NINTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's claims are barred by the doctrines of *res judicata* and collateral estoppel.

**TENTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiff has failed to mitigate his damages, if any.

**ELEVENTH DEFENSE**

Answering defendants are entitled to a credit/set off for any expenses paid by insurance or other third parties who are claimed as damages by the plaintiff.

**TWELFTH DEFENSE**

Defendants were confronted with a sudden emergency and exercised all reasonable care under the circumstances.

**THIRTEENTH DEFENSE**

Defendants are entitled to a credit/set off for any expenses paid by insurance or other third parties which are claimed as damages by the plaintiffs.

**FOURTEENTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs' claims are barred under the Doctrine of Avoidable Consequences.

**FIFTEENTH DEFENSE**


This court lacks jurisdiction over defendants by reason of insufficiency of process and reserves the right to move at or before trial for a dismissal of the Complaint on the ground of lack of jurisdiction because of insufficiency of process and/or service.

**SIXTEENTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part by 49 U.S.C. §30106.

WHEREFORE, defendants, J. B. Hunt Transport, Inc., and James W. Reed, demand judgment in their favor and against the plaintiff, dismissing plaintiffs' Complaint with prejudice together with an award of costs and disbursements incurred by defendants, including attorneys' fees together with such other relief in favor of defendants as this Honorable Court shall deem appropriate.

RAWLE & HENDERSON LLP

By:   
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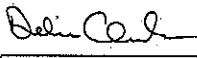
Dated: November 20, 2006.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on today's date I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Answer of Defendants, J.B. Hunt Transport and James W. Reed to plaintiff's Complaint served electronically and by first-class mail, postage prepaid, upon all attorneys of record, addressed as follows:

Timothy E. Lengkeek  
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